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Message Text

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41
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 SCCT-01 SAJ-01 SY-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 OMB-01 /100 W
---------- 102656
R 021533Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1379
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ALOW, UK, EI

SUBJECT: SIX DIE IN WEEKEND TERRORISM

REF: (A) BELFAST 270 (B) LONDON 06685

1. ULSTER DEFENSE REGIME MEMBER KILLED BY BOOBYTRAP BOMB MONEYMORE COUNTRY LONDONDERRY JULY 30. ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARLY CONSTABLE KILLED BY SNIPER LURGAN JULY 31. MAN ASSASSINATED ON DOORSTEP NORTH BELFAST AUGUST 1. THREE MALES KILLED IN MACHINEGUN ATTACK ON BAR SOUTH BELFAST EVENING JULY 30. ALL DEAD ARE PROTESTANTS. WORST SINGLE ATTACK WAS MACHINE GUNNING OF STAG INN, A BAR OWNED BY FORMER STORMONT MINISTER ROY BRADFORD AND PATRONIZED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY RESIDENTS BELVOIR HOUSING ESTATE. UNDOUBTEDLY SOME RESIDENTS BELVOIR ARE MEMBERS ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION OR ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE. HOWEVER, VICTIMS INCLUDING THREE WOUNDRED WERE MOSTLY PENSIONERS AND ATTACK IS SEEN AS SECTARIAN RETALIATION FOR BOMBING OF CATHOLIC BAR DAY BEFORE (REFTEL A). DEATH TOLL FOR FIRST SEVEN MONTHS 1976 NOW EXCEEDS THAT OF SAME PERIOD 1972 WHICH BLOODIEST YEAR OF "TROUBLES" SO FAR.
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2. BOMBINGS CONTINUE AT PACE FAR EXCEEDING 1975 IN FREQUENCY DISPERSION, AND SIZE. CENTER OF LONDONDERRY BLASTED JULY 30 BY 200 POUND PROXY BOMB. THREE BOMBS IN BELFAST, COOKSTOWN, COUNTY TYRONE, GARVAGH AND COLERAINE, COUNTY LONDONDERRY AND DOWNPATRICK OVER WEEKEND.

3. UNREST CONTINUED IN MAGILLIGAN AND LONG KESH/MAZE PRISONS WITH CONVICTS THROWING FOOD OUT OF COMPOUNDS. PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS TO PROTEST ENDING OF "SPECIAL CATEGORY" STATUS BEGAN AUGUST1 IN REPUBLICAN AREAS BELFAST AND ARE EXPECTED TO GROW AND SPREAD THROUGH PROVINCE TOWARD ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNMENT AUGUST 9. NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE ANNOUNCED (SUNDAY) AUGUST 1 THAT 230 LONG-TERM PRISONERS WHO ARE COMING TO THE END OF THEIR SENTENCES WERE BEING OFFERED ONE WEEK LEAVE AT THEIR HOMES OVER SUMMER. SCHEME HAS OPERATED SINCE 1955 IN NORTHERN IRELAND ESPECIALLY AT CHRISTMAS. MANY BENEFICIARIES ARE "SPECIAL CATEGORY" CONVICTS (TERRORISTS) ALTHOUGH PROVISIONAL IRA HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED ACCEPT PAROLE EXCEPT ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS FOR FAMILY DEATHS OR SICKNESS. LOYALIST POLITICIANS HIGHLY IRATE. TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT PUZZLING BUT RELEASE HAVE BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR PAST TWO WEEKS AND CONGEN SURMISES NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE DECIDED TO ANNOUNCE PROGRAM RATHER THAN HAVE IT "DISCOVERED" BY PRESS OR POLITICIANS.

4. THERE NOW NO RPT NO HOTELS IN BELFAST URBAN AREA CONSIDERED SAFE FOR OFFICIAL TRAVELERS EXCEPT FOR DUNADRY INN AT DISTANCE TWENTY MILES AND CULLODEN HOTEL, TEN MILES OUTSIDE CITY. FOR SOME MONTHS PAST OFFICIAL TRAVELS ACCOMMODATED AT OFFICIAL RESIDENCE. THIS IS ADJACENT TO BELVOIR ESTATE AND VERY NEAR STAG INN.
SPICER

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